

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

CASEY KLAIZNER,
 Plaintiff,

vs.

DITECH FINANCIAL LLC,
 Defendant.

Case No. 2:16-cv-00414-GMN-CWH

ORDER

Before the court is Defendant's Motion to Stay Discovery Pending Disposition of Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 13), filed March 29, 2016. The court has considered the motion, Plaintiff's opposition (ECF No. 15), filed April 14, 2016, and Defendant's reply (ECF No. 16), filed April 20, 2016. Defendant seeks an order under Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure staying discovery pending resolution of its Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 7), filed February 29, 2016.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff's suit, originally filed in state court, is a foreclosure avoidance complaint for declaratory relief under the provisions of Nevada Revised Statutes § 30.040. On February 26, 2016, Defendant removed the action to this court. (Petition for Removal (ECF No. 1).) Defendant responded to the complaint by filing a motion to dismiss (ECF No. 7) that is pending before the district judge. Defendant's motion to stay asserts that the motion to dismiss is meritorious, potentially dispositive of the entire case, and can be decided without any discovery. Finally, Defendant argues that an evaluation of the merits of the pending motion to dismiss weighs in favor of granting a stay. Specifically, Defendant makes four main arguments. First, the action is likely to be dismissed because the state court has prior exclusive jurisdiction because plaintiff filed a petition for judicial review in state court. (Reply Supporting Mot. to Dismiss (ECF No. 12) at Ex.

1 A.) Both the petition and this lawsuit address the same property. Second, Defendant argues that
2 the action will likely be dismissed under the doctrine of res judicata because Plaintiff has already
3 lost a prior action also challenging Defendant's right to foreclose on the property. Third, Defendant
4 argues that Plaintiff lacks standing to challenge the validity of the loan assignment to Defendant
5 from a prior holder. Finally, Defendant argues that there is no private right of action for the
6 violation of criminal statutes, and so Plaintiff's claim on that basis will be dismissed.

7 Plaintiff opposes the motion, arguing that the motion to dismiss requires the court to assess
8 facts out of which Plaintiff's claims arise, that Defendant has not met the standard necessary to stay
9 discovery, and that it would not be an undue burden on Defendant to respond to discovery. He
10 incorporates by reference his arguments in response to the motion to dismiss.

11 Defendant replies by reiterating his prior arguments and argues that discovery is not
12 required to decide the pending motions.

13 DISCUSSION

14 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not provide for automatic stays of discovery when
15 a potentially dispositive motion is pending. *Skellercup Indus. Ltd. v. City of L.A.*, 163 F.R.D. 598,
16 600-01 (C.D. Cal 1995) (stating that a stay of discovery is directly at odds with the need for
17 expeditious resolution of litigation). Thus, the fact that a dispositive motion is pending is not "a
18 situation that in and of itself would warrant a stay of discovery." *Turner Broad. Sys., Inc. v.*
19 *Tracinda Corp.*, 175 F.R.D. 554, 556 (D. Nev. 1997) (quotation omitted). Nor does the fact that
20 "discovery may involve some inconvenience and expense" automatically warrant a stay of
21 discovery. *Id.* Rather, the court weighs Rule 1's directive that the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
22 must "be construed and administered to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of
23 every action" against "the underlying principle that a stay of discovery should only be ordered if the
24 court is convinced that a plaintiff will be unable to state a claim for relief." *Tradebay, LLC v.*
25 *eBay, Inc.*, 278 F.R.D. 597, 603 (D. Nev. 2011). The party seeking the stay "carries the heavy
26 burden of making a 'strong showing' why discovery should be denied." *Turner Broad. Sys., Inc.*,
27 175 F.R.D. at 556.

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1 In determining whether to stay the discovery, the court considers whether (1) the pending
 2 motion is potentially dispositive of the entire case or at least dispositive of the issue on which
 3 discovery is sought, and (2) the pending potential dispositive motion can be decided without
 4 additional discovery. *Ministerio Roca Solida v. U.S. Dep't of Fish & Wildlife*, 288 F.R.D. 500, 506
 5 (D. Nev. 2013). This analysis requires the court to take a “preliminary peek” at the merits of the
 6 pending dispositive motion. *Tradebay*, 278 F.R.D. 597 at 603. It is within the court’s broad
 7 discretion to control discovery to determine whether a stay of discovery is appropriate. *Little v.*
 8 *City of Seattle*, 863 F.2d 681, 685 (9th Cir. 1988).

9 Here, the court took a “preliminary peek” at the pending dispositive motion and finds that
 10 Defendant made the strong showing necessary to support the requested stay. The court in particular
 11 finds that Defendant’s argument on the basis of res judicata is compelling. Res judicata bars all
 12 claims “which could have been asserted, whether they were or not, in a prior suit between the same
 13 parties (or their privies) on the same cause of action, if the prior suit concluded in a final judgment
 14 on the merits” *Ross v. Int’l Bhd. of Elec. Workers*, 634 F.2d 453, 457 (9th Cir. 1980).
 15 Defendant was a party to both suits. The first suit involved a final judgment on the merits. Both
 16 suits involve the same claims and similar causes of action. If granted, the motion would be
 17 dispositive of the entire case. Additionally, Plaintiff makes no argument that additional discovery
 18 is required to decide the motion. It therefore appears to the court, in its “preliminary peek” at the
 19 pending motion dispositive motion that the stay of discovery is appropriate.

20 CONCLUSION

21 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant Ditech Financial LLC’s Motion to Stay
 22 Discovery (ECF No. 13) is GRANTED.

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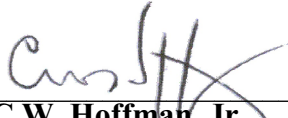
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1 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if the district judge denies the motion to dismiss, the
2 parties must meet and confer and file a proposed discovery plan and scheduling order within 14
3 days from the date of the order denying the motion to dismiss. The proposed discovery plan and
4 scheduling order must comply with LR 26-1(b), with discovery deadlines measured from the date
5 of the order on the motion to dismiss.

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7 DATED: June 2, 2016

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10 **C.W. Hoffman, Jr.**
11 **United States Magistrate Judge**
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